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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,284	01/23/2004	Yu-Li Hsu	VX042587	4692
21369	7590	01/18/2005	EXAMINER	
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC			LAVINDER, JACK W	
106-A S. COLUMBUS ST.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			3677	

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/762,284	HSU, YU-LI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jack W. Lavinder	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) (1 sheet)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 2 are objected to because of the following informalities: In line 21 of claim 1, "a hole defined through the pivot end of the body" is indefinite. The body does not have a pivot end, at least defined as such in the claims. For examination purposes, it is assumed that the applicant intended to claim "a hole defined through the pivot end of the holder." Also, in line 27 of claim 1, not sure what is meant by "the transverse." For examination purposes, it will be assumed that the applicant intended to claim "the transverse lip."

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

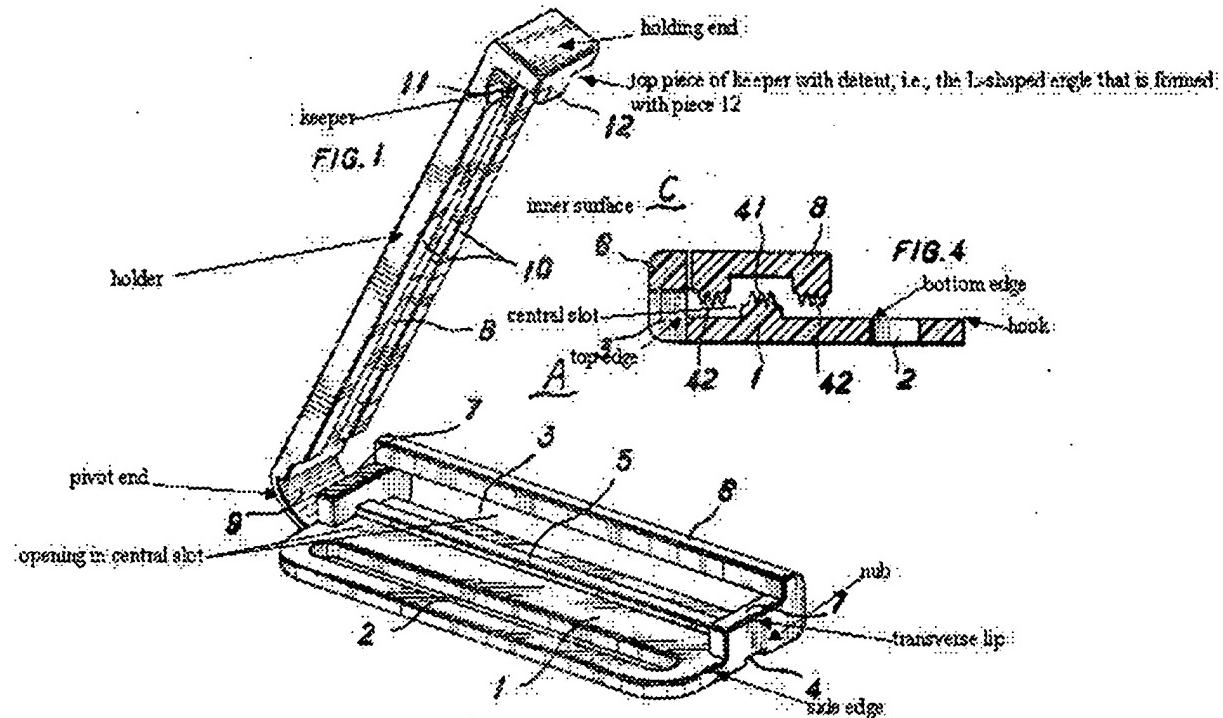
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takabayashi, 4038726 in view of Hsu, D491101.

4. Regarding claims 1 and 2, Takabayashi discloses (see figure on next page) a strap suspender for a brassiere having a body having

- a top edge (
- a bottom edge

- two side edges
- a hook integrally formed with the bottom edge of the body
- a transverse lip transversely formed with the top edge of the body having a thickness
- a central slot defined through the transverse lip and an opening communicating with the central slot
- a nub formed on the transverse lip near the side edge
- a holder pivotally mounted on the body and having
 - a pivot end
 - a holding end
 - an inner surface with multiple teeth (42)
 - a keeper formed on the inner surface of the holder having
 - a top piece
 - a bottom piece
 - a detent defined in the top piece of the keeper and shaped corresponding to the nub on the transverse lip
 - a distance between the top piece and the bottom piece equal to the thickness of the transverse lip on the body



5. Takabayashi discloses a living flexible hinge (9) that allows the holder to pivot back and forth, but fails to disclose a hinge comprising a pivot pin and holes in the holder and the transverse lip for receiving the pivot pin.

6. Hsu discloses a similar clip device that function in much the same way as Takabayashi's clip. Hsu discloses a hook formed integrally with the body of the clip and a pivot pin located in a pivot hole in both the lip and the holder for allowing the holder to pivot back and forth just as well as the living hinge disclosed in Takabayashi.

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7. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use Hsu's pivoting hinge in place of Takabayashi's living hinge since the specification has failed to disclose solving any stated problem by using a pin hinge and both the pin hinge and the living hinge equally perform the function of allowing the holder to pivot back and forth. Furthermore, it is advantageous to form the clip from two separate parts to increase the useful life of the device, i.e., if either part fails, it can easily be replaced.

Conclusion

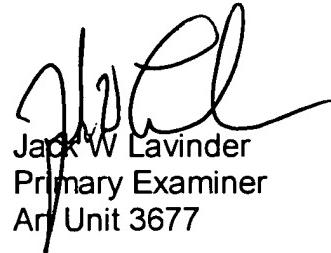
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack W. Lavinder whose telephone number is 703-308-3421. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday, 9-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jack W Lavinder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

1/12/05